

## Profile

I am a “child” of the National Bureau of Economic Research. I have been affiliated with the Bureau since 1966 when Victor Fuchs hired me as a research assistant. Currently, I direct the NBER’s Health Economics Program and am Distinguished Professor of Economics at the City University of New York Graduate Center, where I have taught since 1972. I also am a co-editor of the Review of Economics of the Household, a series co-editor of Advances in Health Economics and Health Services Research, published by JAI Press, an imprint of Emerald Group Publishing Limited, an associate editor of the Journal of Health Economics, an associate editor of the Journal of Human Capital, a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, a past president of the Eastern Economic Association, and the current president of the American Society of Health Economists.

I received my Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University in 1970. My research has focused on economic models of the determinants of health, the economics of substance use and abuse, and the determinants of interest rates on tax-exempt hospital bonds. My recently completed studies deal with the effects of excise taxes on cigarette smoking by pregnant women, the relationship between substance use and risky sexual behavior by teenagers, the economics of obesity, and the effects of managed care on hospital prices for bypass surgery and for angioplasty. My current research deals with the effects of the introduction of national health insurance and compulsory school reform in Taiwan on child health outcomes in that country. My new projects address the effects of food prices and food advertising on body composition of children, moral hazard in less invasive surgical technology for coronary artery disease, and the impacts of insurance, outcomes, and severity on pricing of major cancer surgery.

I have published a monograph, over sixty journal articles, over thirty book chapters, and have co-edited three books. Almost all of this research is in the areas of health economics mentioned above. I am the inaugural recipient of the Victor R. Fuchs Award for lifetime contributions to the field of health economics, presented by the American Society of Health Economists in 2008.

I live in Manhattan with my wife, Ilene, a consultant in the design and management of computer systems for financial services. We have two grown daughters: Sandy, a free-lance marketing consultant in television and other media, and Barri, a personal trainer. My hobbies include tennis, skiing (despite an infamous wipe-out on a double black diamond), piloting my boat, the “NBER South,” docked in Ophelia on the Northern Neck of Virginia, playing with my fraternal twin grandsons, Zack and Ben, and with my granddaughter, Alise, and supervising Ph.D. dissertations (97 and counting).